

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1-8 are amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action objects to claims 4-7. Claims 4-7 are amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 4-7 is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tachibana et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0053246); claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Tachibana and Meyer et al. ("Color-Defective Vision ...", IEEE Article); claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Tachibana in view of Takamura et al. ("Constructing a Uniform Color Space ...", IEEE Article); claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Tachibana and Weast et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,931,151); and claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Tachibana, Meyer and Oleari ("Uniform-Scale Chromaticity ...", Color Research & Application). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 1 and 8, the Office Action asserts that Tachibana discloses a retrieval unit that determines a set of confusion colors of the colors contained in the determined color group citing Fig. 4 and paragraph [0049] of Tachibana. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Tachibana does not disclose or suggest a retrieval unit that determines an association between the colors in the determined color group based on one or more criteria, as recited in claim 1 and determining such an association recited in claim 8.

In paragraph [0047], Tachibana discloses to determine whether an extracted color element combination lies within the range found by the maximum value and the minimum value in Table 1. As shown in Fig. 8, Table 1 discloses a list of colors having maximum,

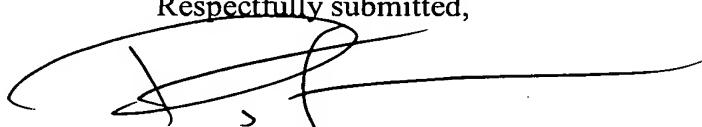
minimum and middle color element values which are colors that a person whose color vision is impaired would have great difficulty in discriminating. (See paragraph [0046], lines 5-9.) Thus, Tachibana associates an extracted color with the color in a table but does not associate different extracted colors with each other. Thus, Tachibana does not disclose or suggest a retrieval unit that determines an association between the colors in the determined color group based on one or more criteria, as recited in claim 1 or determining such an association, as recited in claim 8.

None of the other applied references (Meyer, Takamura, Weast or Oleari) discloses the above indicated association recited in claims 1 and 8. Thus, none of these other references supply the subject lacking in Tachibana. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Tachibana, Meyer, Takamura, Weast and Oleari, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-8. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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